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USIB-D-16.2/44
12 April 1961

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Validity Study on NIE 11-3-57

Probable Intelligence Warning of Soviet Attack on the US

dated 18 June 1957

The attached Validity Study of NIE 11-3-57 was noted by the
Intelligence Board on 6 April 1961 (USIB-M-149, item 2. b.).



Executive Secretary

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In the grossest sense, the validity of this estimate cannot be determined because the USSR did not attack the US. On the other hand, during the years since 1957, there have been several major crises in which the Soviets undertook various precautionary military preparations, and the ability of intelligence to detect and recognize these preparations proved to be about as predicted in the estimate. The generalized projection of changes in the warning problem between 1957 and 1960, in paragraphs 47-52, is consistent with information now at hand, except that Soviet Long Range Aviation has not established any fairly large-scale pattern of Arctic activities.

The detailed evaluations of the warning which might have been derived from specific Soviet preparations for attack in 1957, in paragraphs 29-46, are of course out of date, but their general tenor was borne out by the subsequent Warning Survey of the Warning Systems Survey Committee of the USIB. Most important, the analysis of the nature of the warning problem and the factors affecting it, in paragraphs 5-28, is still regarded as generally valid and forms a basis for the comparable analysis in NIE 11-61.

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